

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-37 are pending in the action. Claims 5-14, 19 and 35 are objected to, and claims 1-4, 15-18, 20-34, 36 and 37 are allowed. The specific grounds for objection, and applicants' response thereto, are set out in detail below.

II. Objection Under 37 C.F.R. §1.75(c) and Interview Summary

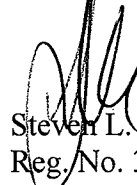
Claims 5-14, 19 and 35 are objected to as not further limiting a claim from which they depend. Applicants representative contacted the examiner on November 9, 2006, to request clarification of the objection. With respect to claims 8-14 and 19, the examiner, upon review of the objection, believed that the objection was in error. Applicants concur, and hence will not address the objection of these claims further in this response.

Turning to claims 5-7 and 35, it was the examiner's contention that exclusion of PDE (claims 5 and 35) or substitution of a known PDE-binding compound (claims 6 and 7) was inconsistent with claim 1, and hence not limiting. As applicants explained, what is intended by these claims are positive (claims 6 and 7) and negative (claims 5 and 35) control reactions. Thus, these are complete reactions comprising steps (a)-(e) of claim 1, only substituting the test compound for a known PDE-binding compound (positive control) or where PDE is omitted from steps (a) and (b) (negative) control. Thus, the steps of claim 1 are *still* performed, but a new series of steps, modified as indicated, are *also* performed. These claims therefore do limit the claims from which they depend. Applicants have provided amendments designed to clarify the foregoing relationships. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection is therefore respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, applicants respectfully submit that all claims are in condition for allowance, and an early notification to the effect is earnestly solicited. Should the examiner have any questions regarding this response, a telephone call to the undersigned is invited.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: December 6, 2006